

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-11, 16 and 18-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 16 are herein amended. Claim 3 and 12-15 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added. In light of the amendments to the claims and the accompanying remarks, applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to applicants' representative during the personal interview with the Examiner conducted on November 11, 2006. During the course of the interview, claims 1-23 were discussed, with particular emphasis on claims 1 and 16. Applicants hereby incorporate by reference, the interview discussion conducted on November 11, 2006.

On the Merits

In the response filed on May 25, 2006 Applicants presented the argument that "the glass substrate (element 1 figure 3) serves at least two functions; *propagating a surface acoustic wave for detecting a touched position*, and *propagating light from a linear light source to emit the light to a reflective-type liquid crystal display*," and that these features were not disclosed by *An*. The Examiner responded that *An* does teach these features in figure 11, reference 120. The Examiner also cited to column 5, paragraph 59. There *An* states "an ultrasonic wave touch panel with the light guide integrally formed in the touch panel." Emphasis added. The Examiner

stated that “figure 11 of *An* clearly teaches only having one integrated structure to be used in addition to an LCD....”

However, in the following paragraph 60 of *An* it states, “The laminating operation of the touch panel with the light guide integrally formed therein according to the present invention and of addition of it as the input device to the frontlight LCD will be described as follows.” Thus *An* does not disclose the claimed invention, “a light guiding and emitting part for guiding light through said light guiding part so as to emit light as planar light to an outside **“and”** said light guiding part propagates an ultrasonic wave through the optically transparent substrate,” “wherein said light guiding part and light guiding and emitting part constitute a single optically transparent substrate.”

Paragraph 61 of *An* continues:

A method for laminating a touch panel with a light guide integrally formed therein by laminating the light guide on an upper glass sheet of a frontlight LCD and then laminating a touch panel as an input device on the light guide

Claim 1 requires in part “said light guiding and emitting part propagates an ultrasonic wave through an optically transparent substrate and senses a change in a propagation state of the ultrasonic wave due to a touch of an object with said substrate so as to detect a position where the object is touched. Emphasis added. *An* requires two components to achieve what is required by 1 component in claim 1.

Thus, when *An* discloses “a touch panel with the light guide integrally formed in the touch panel,” it is referring to paragraph 61, laminating the light guide and the touch panel.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the feature requiring *the light guiding part guides light and also propagates an ultrasonic wave*, is not disclosed by the cited references, and as such, submit that claim 1 as herein presented is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claim 6:

Claim 6 requires in part, “on optical refractive index of said light guiding and emitting part is not less than an optical refractive index of said light guiding part. The Examiner cites to paragraph 76 of *Masuda* which describes figure 31, “a graph showing polarization dependence of the **reflectance** of light....” It does not appear that this paragraph discloses what is required in claim 6. **Reflectance** is not the same as the index of **refraction**. As such, applicants submit that the cited references do not disclose the required features of claim 6, and respectfully submit that claim 6 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claim 9:

Dependent claim 9 requires in part, “said light guiding and emitting part is a plurality of grooves formed in said light guiding part.” The Examiner maintains the position that this feature is disclosed in *Masuda* in figures 15A-15D and figure 24, noting reference numbers 25 and 26a1. However, reference number 25 is a “reflecting film,” while reference number 26a1 is a “tilted region.” This is not “groove” as required by dependent claim 9.

Amendment
Application No. 10/642,640
Attorney Docket No. 030931

In response to our arguments, the Examiner stated that “the spaces that the film is housed in are grooves.” Applicants respectfully submit that *Masuda* does not disclose grooves, as required by dependent claim 9, and as such, is presently in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request if the rejection is maintained, that the Examiner indicate where the “spaces the film is housed in,” is disclosed in *Masuda*.

Independent Claim 16:

As discussed above regarding independent claim 1, independent claim 16 requires a substrate perform two functions:

“guides the light incident on the substrate from the light source” **and** “an ultrasonic wave is propagated through the optically transparent substrate.”

As discussed earlier this feature of the substrate is not disclosed or fairly suggested by the references. As such, applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 as herein presented is in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 18:

Independent claim 18 requires in part, “wherein said light guiding and emitting part is a step-like structure formed on said light guiding part.” The Office Action contended this feature was disclosed in *Masuda* on page 10, paragraph 153. However, applicants respectfully submit that paragraph 153 does not disclose the above required feature of claim 18. Paragraph 153

Amendment
Application No. 10/642,640
Attorney Docket No. 030931

appears to describe figure 15 which does not show a step-like structure formed on a light guiding part, but only an adhesive layer 28 applied to the first light guide element 26. As such, applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not disclose the required features of claim 18, and therefore, claim 18 is presently in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 5-11 and 19-23:

As claim 5-11 and 19-23 ultimately depend upon independent claim 1 and 18, the arguments presented above regarding the independent claim show also apply to the dependent claims. As such, applicants submit that the dependent claims as herein presented are in condition for allowance.


In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned agent to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Amendment
Application No. 10/642,640
Attorney Docket No. 030931

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP


Dennis M. Hubbs

Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 59,145
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

DMH/tw